

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function of a vehicle audio/video system, comprising:
  - 5 a display unit for the vehicle audio/video system for displaying images;
  - a display compartment for receiving the display unit therein; and
  - 10 a release device attached to the display unit and the display compartment for producing a release signal when the display unit is installed in the display compartment;
  - 15 wherein the brake interlock function disables the display unit when the display unit is mounted on a dashboard of the vehicle and when the vehicle is in motion; and wherein the brake interlock function is released by the release signal when the display compartment having the display unit is mounted on a rear of a front or middle seat, thereby enabling the display unit.
- 20 2. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the rear of the front or middle seat is a rear of a headrest of the front seat or middle seat of the vehicle, and wherein the display compartment is so configured to be fit solely with a recess formed on the rear of the headrest.
- 25 3. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the rear of the front or middle seat is a rear of a seat back of the front seat or middle seat of the vehicle, and wherein the display compartment is so configured to be fit solely with a recess formed on the seat back of the front or middle seat.
- 30 4. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the release device is a mechanical switch which is pressed by an inner wall of the display compartment when the display unit is installed

in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal.

5. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the release device is a mechanical switch which works as a connector where a pin of the connector is inserted in a receptacle of the connector when the display unit is installed in the compartment, thereby generating the release signal.

10. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the release device is a mechanical switch comprised of two electrical terminals and a rod for electrically shorting the two terminals when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal, where the two 15 terminals are provided on the display unit, and the rod is placed on an inner wall of the display compartment, or vice versa.

20. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the release device is comprised of a magnetic sensor and a permanent magnet, and the magnetic sensor detects a magnetic field produced by the permanent magnet when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal, where the magnetic sensor is provided on the display unit and 25 the permanent magnet is provided on an inner wall of the display compartment, or vice versa.

30. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the release device is comprised of an optical sensor and an optical source, and the optical sensor detects light energy produced by the optical source when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal, where the optical sensor is provided on the display unit and 35 the optical source is provided on an inner wall of the display compartment, or vice versa.

9. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 1, wherein the display unit displays either the images from an audio/video source or a navigation status from a navigation system where a function of the navigation system is unaffected by the block interlock function.

10. An apparatus for releasing a brake interlock function of a vehicle audio/video system, comprising:

a display unit for the vehicle audio/video system for displaying images;

an interface unit for interfacing between the display unit and an audio/video source;

a display compartment for receiving the display unit therein;

15 a release device attached to the display unit and the display compartment for producing a release signal which is sent to the interface unit when the display unit is installed in the display compartment;

20 wherein the brake interlock function disables the display unit when the display unit is mounted on a dashboard of the vehicle and when the vehicle is in motion; and wherein the brake interlock function is released by the interface unit in response to the release signal when the display compartment having the display unit is mounted on a rear of a front seat, thereby enabling the display unit.

25 11. A method for releasing a brake interlock function of a vehicle audio/video system, comprising the following steps of:

30 providing a display unit for the vehicle audio/video system for displaying images;

receiving the display unit in a display compartment;

35 producing a release signal by a release device attached to the display unit and the display

compartment when the display unit is received in the display compartment; and

5                   mounting the display compartment having the display unit on a rear of a front seat or middle seat of the vehicle:

10                  wherein the brake interlock function disables the display unit when the display unit is mounted on a dashboard of the vehicle and when the vehicle is in motion; and wherein the brake interlock function is released by the release signal when the display compartment having the display unit is mounted on the rear of the seat, thereby enabling the display unit.

15                  12. A method for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of mounting the display compartment includes a step of inserting the display compartment in a recess formed on a rear of a headrest of the front seat or middle seat of the vehicle.

20                  13. A method for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of mounting the display compartment includes a step of inserting the display compartment in a recess formed on a rear of a seat back of the front seat or middle seat of the vehicle.

25                  14. A method for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of producing the release signal includes a step of providing a mechanical switch which is pressed by an inner wall of the display compartment when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal.

30                  15. A method for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of producing the release signal includes a step of providing a mechanical switch which works as a connector where a pin of the connector is inserted in a receptacle of the connector when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal.

16. A method for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of producing the release signal includes a step of providing a mechanical switch comprised of two electrical terminals and a rod for electrically shorting the two terminals when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal, where the two terminals are provided on the display unit, and the rod is placed on an inner wall of the display compartment, or vice versa.

10        17. A method for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of producing the release signal includes a step of providing a magnetic sensor and a permanent magnet, and the magnetic sensor detects a magnetic field produced by the permanent magnet when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal, and wherein the step of providing the magnetic sensor and the permanent magnet includes a step of providing the magnetic sensor on the display unit and providing the permanent magnet on an inner wall of the display compartment, or vice versa.

15        18. A method for releasing a brake interlock function as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of producing the release signal includes a step of providing an optical sensor and an optical source, and the optical sensor detects light energy produced by the optical source when the display unit is installed in the display compartment, thereby generating the release signal, and wherein the step of providing the optical sensor and the optical source includes a step of providing the optical sensor on the display unit and providing the optical source on an inner wall of the display compartment, or vice versa.